Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

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Pest Patrol Alerts

The information contained herein each week is available via text alerts that direct users to online recordings. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. After a new message is posted, a text message is sent to alert users that I have recorded a new update. Users can subscribe for text message alerts for my updates in two easy steps. Step one: register by texting **pestpat7** to 97063. Step two: reply to the confirmation text you receive by texting the letter "y" to complete your registration. Pest Patrol Alerts are sponsored by Syngenta.

Updates on Twitter

When noteworthy events happen the in the field, I will be sending them out quickly via Twitter. If you want to follow those quick updates, follow me at @bugdocisin on Twitter.

News from Around the State

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that he has "heard about some thrips on some cotton. Most is slow growing with these cool nights. Dry conditions are also starting to slow planting of cotton in some fields." **Jay Crouch**, county agent in Newberry County, reported that "cotton planting just getting up to speed my way. Cool wet conditions slowed us a bit."

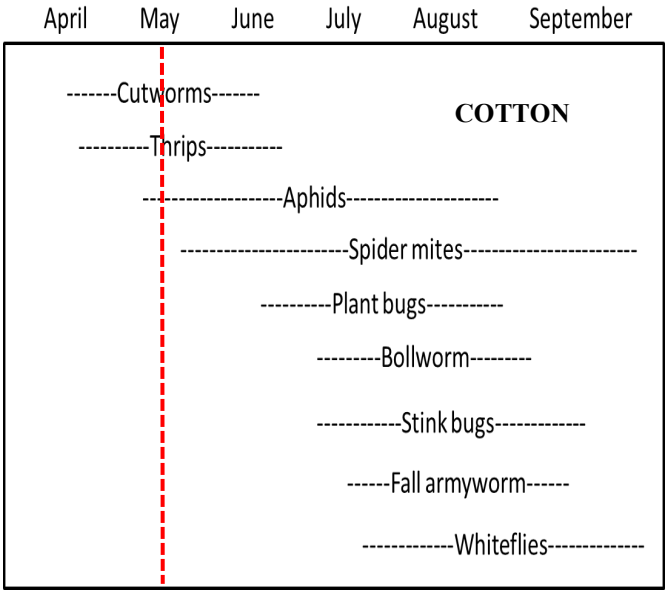
Cotton Situation

As of 10 May 2020, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 23% of the crop has been planted, compared with 11% at this time last week, 34% at this time last year, and 33% for the 5-year average. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages. The condition of the crop was not yet described, but what I have observed looks okay but not great. It was cold and has been dry for cotton to do much growing in the lower part of SC.

Cotton Insects

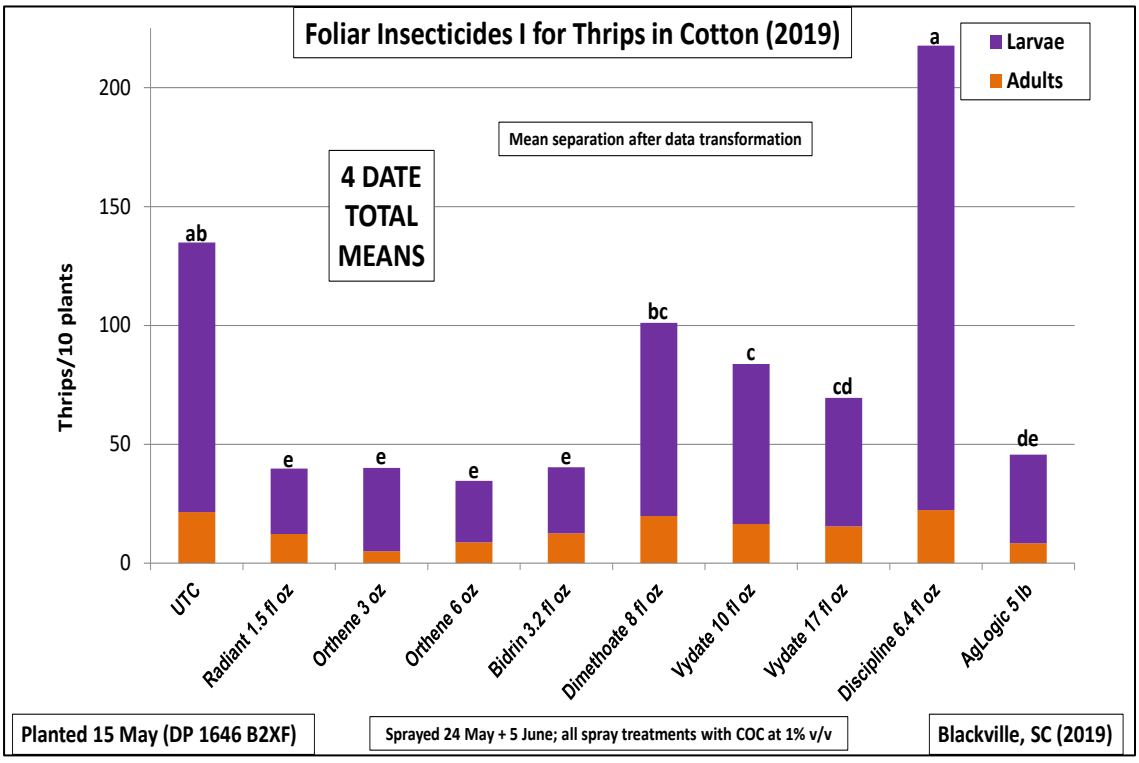
As this week ends, it has certainly warmed up, but it has gotten dry in the southern half of the state. The northern half received some rains last week that we missed down here. Thrips, grasshoppers, and false chinch bugs are the most pressing issues with insects right now. Pressure from thrips has been moderate in my research plots so far this season…not near what we saw last year. Most at-plant treatments are providing good protection, but the seed treatments are weaker than products put in the furrow not on the

seedcoat. Plots treated with aldicarb (AgLogic) continue to look the best right now (3 leaf stage). Foliar sprays are doing fine, except for the pyrethroid, with Radiant, Acephate, and Bidrin looking good on thrips. Last year, we had a large population of thrips go through my trials, and the chart below shows what we observed on efficacy of foliar insecticides. Radiant, Orthene, and Bidrin were the best foliar sprays for thrips.



We have noticed a ton of false chinch bugs (FCB) in our foliar test using untreated (black) seed that were planted about 8 days after burndown of weeds. This is a good example of what not to do with a late burndown and planting too close to that event, especially if you have an issue with an at-plant treatment for thrips. Check out the large population of FCB on cotton at this Twitter link: https://twitter.com/bugdocisin/status/1260259764451381250?s=20

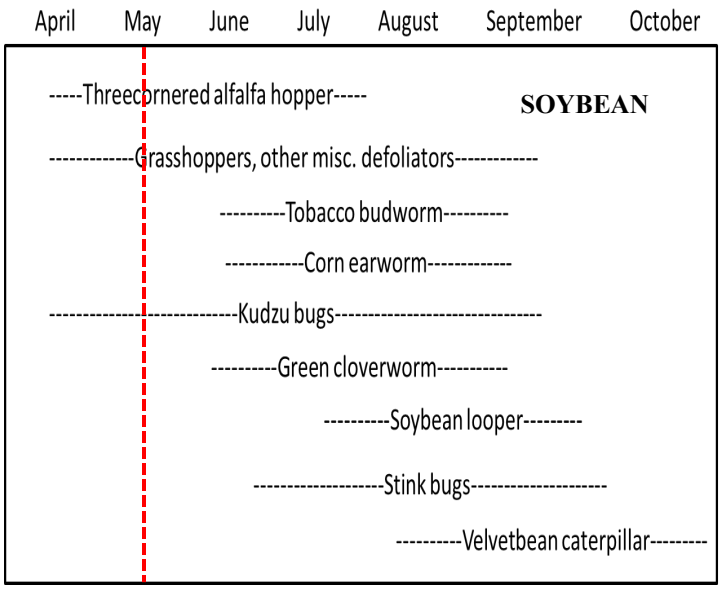
In an adjacent trial, we don't have any problems with FCB, as long as something was used for thrips at planting. All insecticides, except for Radiant, are providing control of FCB. We are starting to see some aphids in that at-plant trial and will continue to monitor population development of cotton aphid.



For problems with grasshoppers, see the newsletter from last week. Use a high grasshopper rate of acephate for adults and the insect growth regulator (IGR) Dimilin (2 fl oz/acre) for keeping the nymphs from becoming adults. This IGR is great for grasshoppers.

Soybean Situation

As of 10 May 2020, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office estimated that about 10% of the crop has been planted, compared with 6% the previous week, 6% at this time last year, and 9% for the 5-year average. The condition of the crop was not yet described, but very little has been planted. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.



Soybean Insects

I have some soybeans at V1/V2 in a planting date study (photo below) planted mid-April, and, again this week, no insects have found them yet, as far as I can tell. We are also still sucessfully keeping the deer away with a 1-ribbon fence. I am anxious to see if kudzu bugs jump on these early planted soybeans soon like they did last year. They were the most numerous insect pest in this trial last year. We will see what happens this season. Grasshoppers continue to be an issue in spots for both cotton and early planted soybean. Use Dimilin at 2 fl oz/acre to control the immatures and break the life cycle, but use a pyrethroid for some suppression of the adults that are more difficult to control.

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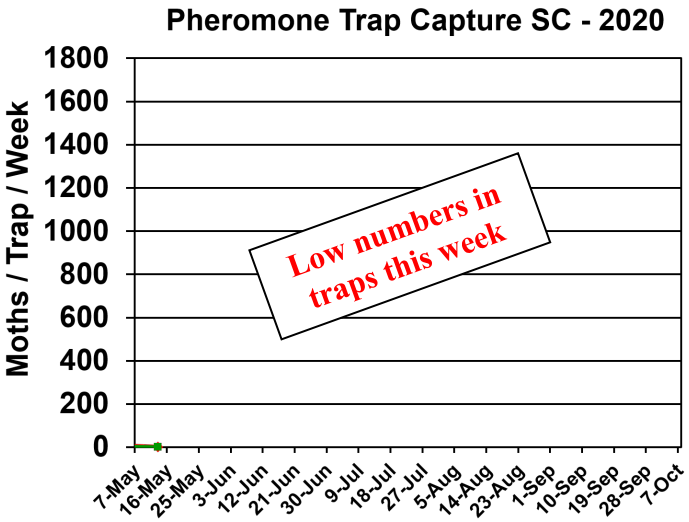
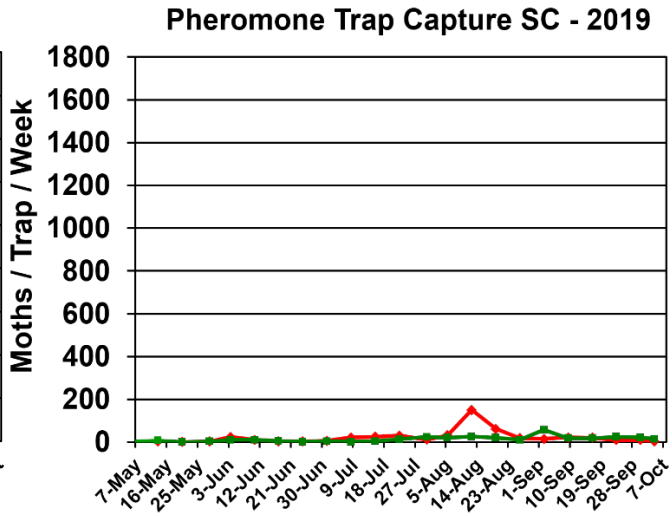
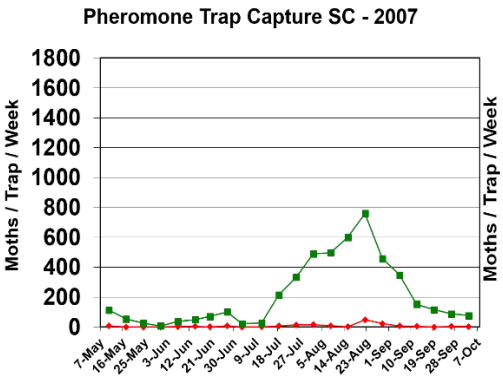
Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm

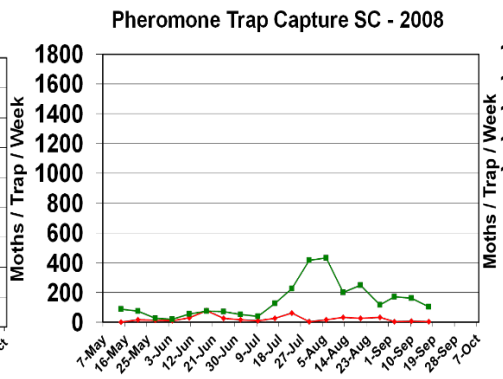
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2007-2019 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for any acres of non-Bt cotton. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity in our local area near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.

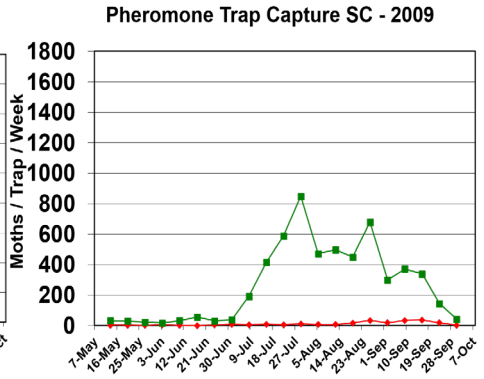


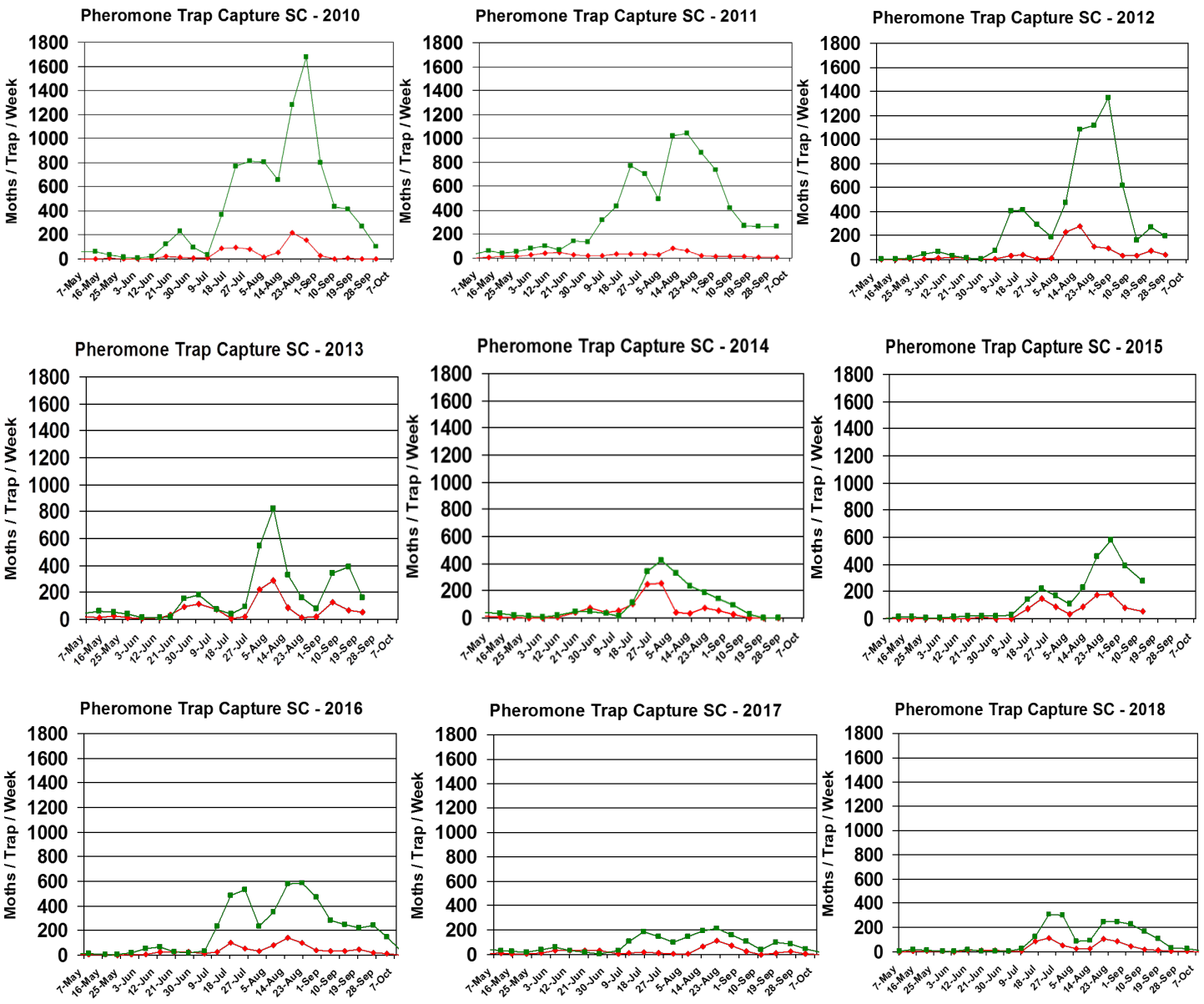


Trap data from 2007-2018 are shown below for reference to other years of trapping data from EREC:





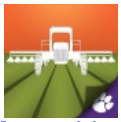




Pest Management Handbook – 2020

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2020 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/pest%20management%20handbook.html

Free Mobile Apps: "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer"



Download our free mobile apps called "Calibrate My Sprayer" and "Mix My Sprayer" that help check for proper calibration of spraying equipment and help you with mixing user-defined pesticides, respectively, in custom units (available in both iOS and Android formats):
http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/

Need More Information?

For more Clemson University Extension information: http://www.clemson.edu/extension/

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:
https://www.clemson.edu/extension/agronomy/cotton1/newsletters.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor of Entomology

Visit our website at:
http://www.clemson.edu